

**Tyson Wash Water Quality Assurance Revolving Fund (WQARF) Site
Community Advisory Board Meeting**

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 30, 2005

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Quartzsite Community Center

305 N. Plymouth Street

Quartzsite, Arizona

OU #06-065

CAB members present: Herman York (Chair), Cecil Loyet, and Martha Chapman

New members present: Audrey Berger, Billy Rhoades, and Dale Schooley

Members absent: Jean Winter and Jack Burris

New Alternates absent: Bob Freedman, Marilyn McFate, and Walter Akin

ADEQ Staff in attendance: Chris Gamache, Project Manager; Linda Mariner, Community Involvement Coordinator

Members of the public present: Jerry Berger, Thomas Savage, and Robert Fiduske

The meeting began at 1:05 p.m.

The following matters were discussed, considered, and decided upon at the meeting:

- 1. Welcome & Introductions -**
Introductions of Community Advisory Board (CAB) members, ADEQ staff, and members of the public were made.
- 2. Acceptance or changes to the July 13, 2005 draft minutes -**
Cecil Loyet moved and Martha Chapman seconded that the minutes be accepted as written. The minutes were unanimously accepted.
- 3. Update on Quarterly Groundwater Monitoring and Treatment System Expansion Activities -**

Chris Gamache, Project Manager, gave an update on the treatment system expansion at the Welcome RV Park property via a slide show. He also presented the results of the groundwater monitoring event that occurred during the past quarter.

Four new wells were installed between September 26 and 29, 2005 for the treatment system. Mr. Gamache showed the locations where the three new extraction wells and one injection well were installed and pictures of the installation. He also explained the pump and treat process and how the new wells would be used. Trenches were dug the following week to lay the water lines to connect these wells to the current treatment system. Mr. Gamache showed pictures of these 2-foot trenches and how they were restored to their original appearance. He also showed pictures of the completed well vaults (that allow access to the wells) in the road that the Town of Quartzsite approved.

Mr. Gamache outlined his expectations for the expanded treatment system. A larger quantity of water would be pumped with the additional wells, so he expected PCE concentrations to decrease in the wells over time. The contamination plume will shrink significantly as the water is removed and treated.

Mr. Gamache then explained the results of the September 2005 sampling event beginning September 20th and ending October 3rd. Groundwater samples were taken from both new and existing wells. Mr. Gamache's slides showed that the natural flow for groundwater on the site moves in a northwest direction, but turns northward under Mr. York's property. Once the treatment system started up again, it would slightly change the direction of groundwater flow.

Mr. Loyet asked if this water [aquifer] flowed into the Colorado River. Mr. Gamache responded that the river was 20 miles away from Quartzsite, and that was too far away from this aquifer. Mr. Gamache continued by showing that the highest PCE concentration sampled was found at Well QMW-3 on Washington Avenue alongside the Welcome RV Park with 150 micrograms per liter ($\mu\text{g/L}$). This exceeded ADEQ's standard for PCE of 5 $\mu\text{g/L}$. The second highest concentration well was alongside the Welcome RV Park on Cowell Street at 98 $\mu\text{g/L}$. The new expanded system was designed to pull contaminated water from the three extraction wells, remove the PCE with carbon filters, and then inject the clean water back in the ground at a spot south of Cowell Street and Johnson Avenue to drive the contamination towards the extraction wells. The next sampling event will take place between December 6 and 9, 2005. The technician would also be coming out once a month to maintain the system and make any needed adjustments.

The draft Feasibility Study (FS) Work Plan would soon be started to compare the costs and effectiveness of the proposed remedies. The FS always includes two cleanup technologies for comparison. The draft FS Work Plan will be placed in the public repository at the Quartzsite Library, and there will be a comment period for the public to submit written comments to ADEQ. Once the comment period is over, a final work plan will be submitted, and then the FS report will be written.

Ms. Berger asked about the water that was being pulled from the wells. She wanted to know if it was going through a filter system before being injected back into the ground. Mr. Gamache assured her that the extracted water was filtered through 55-gallon granulated activated carbon (GAC) drums before being injected back into the ground. The carbon powder in the GACs captures the PCE and removes it from the water.

Mr. Schooley asked about the effectiveness of the treatment system. Mr. Gamache answered that groundwater must be cleaned to below 5 µg/L to comply with the water quality standard for PCE. Even after sampling results showed PCE levels below 5 µg/L, ADEQ would not immediately remove any equipment until ADEQ staff were sure that PCE levels were staying below the 5 µg/L limit. To ensure that PCE levels had been remediated to below the water quality standard, ADEQ staff would turn off the treatment system and leave the groundwater to sit and rest for awhile before testing it again. Mr. Schooley asked if this meant that ADEQ would take a gallon of the groundwater and leave it to sit for a few hours and then test it again. Mr. Gamache explained the technique further by stating that every three months groundwater samples would be taken from monitoring wells while the treatment system was off, and if the PCE levels in the water continued to measure below 5 µg/L, then the treatment system would be removed.

Someone asked whether the plume had shown any sign of reduction yet. Mr. Gamache reported that the contamination had been significantly reduced in the area of the Welcome RV Park and that the concern now is to prevent the rest of the plume from spreading further.

4. Nominations and Voting for CAB Co-Chairs -

Mr. Loyet pointed out that two years ago the CAB had voted to function with only one chairperson. This oversight was corrected during the discussion on the CAB charter. The motion to re-appoint Mr. York as the CAB Chair was made by Mr. Loyet and seconded by Ms. Chapman. He was unanimously approved.

5. Discussion and Voting on CAB Membership -

Ms. Mariner asked if the current CAB members were able to review the six CAB membership applications turned in at the last meeting. Three of the applicants were in attendance. Mr. Loyet motioned that the three applicants present at the meeting (Audrey Berger, Billy Rhoades, and Dale Schooley) be accepted as new members. Mr. York seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous in favor of accepting three new CAB members.

Ms. Berger asked how many members constituted a quorum. Since there were now seven CAB members, four members would need to be present at the meetings to form a quorum. Mr. Loyet then made a motion to accept the three absent applicants as alternates who would have official voting rights when they attended in the place of a CAB member. Mr. Rhoades seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Chapman had mentioned several times that she had served a long time on the CAB, and thought that she didn't belong there anymore because of her loss of memory after her

recent stroke. Therefore, Ms. Berger motioned to accept Ms. Chapman's resignation from the CAB with great appreciation for her past commitment and service to the Town of Quartzsite as well as the Tyson Wash CAB. Mr. Loyet seconded the motion, and Ms. Chapman's resignation was accepted regretfully by all.

6. Review of CAB Charter -

Ms. Mariner opened the discussion about whether the CAB wanted to stay with the current number of nine official members required by the charter. Mr. Rhoades asked what exactly the CAB members did with their "new found power." He wanted to know why the CAB needed so many members since only a few property owners were affected. Mr. Gamache explained that ADEQ looked to the community to give input on remedial activities in their area. The more community input given for these activities, the better informed ADEQ is to address community concerns. The motion to change the charter to have a total number of five members on the CAB was made by Mr. Loyet and seconded by Mr. Rhoades.

There was also discussion on the fact that the CAB had previously voted to change the charter so that only one chair was elected for the CAB. This change was not in the current charter on file, so a new vote was taken to make it official. Ms. Berger made the motion to require only one CAB Chair in the charter, and Mr. Loyet seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to have only one Chair.

Another change made was to require a two week minimum before the next CAB meeting for getting agenda items to the Chair. The motion was made by Mr. Loyet, and Mr. Rhoades seconded it. The CAB also decided that no change would be made to having open nominations in April of each year.

Ms. Mariner committed to making the changes to the charter, and having it ready for the Chair to sign at the next CAB meeting.

7. Call to the public –

Mr. Loyet asked about the status of some underground storage tanks at the Four Corners gas station and ADOT station that had past leaks. Mr. Gamache responded that he did not have information regarding that program, but would find the person to contact in the Tanks Program at ADEQ.

Ms. Berger asked about past concerns from ADEQ regarding a nitrate plume on the west end of town from septic systems in the area. Mr. Gamache responded that he didn't have any information on that issue, but he would check with the ADEQ program that handles wastewater issues.

Mr. Rhoades requested to hear the correct pronunciation for PCE. Mr. Gamache pronounced the chemical name and gave a short definition and its uses in the past. Ms. Berger asked if it was used in transformers as well; Mr. Gamache clarified that transformers use PCBs.

8. Future meeting plans -

Mr. Loyet moved that Wednesday, April 5, 2006 be set as the date for the next CAB meeting and Mr. Schooley seconded it. This tentative date was passed by the board and agenda items discussed for the next meeting included: 1) Signing of the CAB revised charter, and 2) Update on quarterly monitoring and sampling activities.

Mr. Loyet moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Mr. Rhoades seconded it at 2:05 p.m.